specification. The preamble is supported by the first sentence of the Summary of the Invention in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4.

The phrase "electrically non-conductive solid support having an upper surface region" finds support among the following passages. "The surface of the card itself is not electrically conducting nor is the card." Page 10, lines 19-21. The term upper surface region indicates which of the two or more possible surfaces inherently available on a card structure is used. Relating the terms support and card, "a substrate support such as a polymethylmethacrylate card approximately the size of a conventional credit card is provided". Page 10, lines 17-19. The term solid is inherent to the term rigid used in the specification, "Since the substrate of the card is preferably a rigid polymeric material . . . ." Page 9, lines 24-25.

In claim 21, the claimed phrase "a movement area formed in the support's upper surface region for holding a fluid medium containing charged particles" is found at page 4, lines 16-19. The claimed terms "arms", "main arm", and "side arms" are inherent to the disclosed embodiment supported by the specification at page 6, lines 1-5, stating "Yet another feature of the invention is the inclusion of branched movement areas in which it is possible to move together and separate from each other charged particles in order to carry out complex reaction and/or separate schemes", and on page 14, lines 1-33, describing an embodiment having a trench (central arm) and a plurality of side arms (branches) thereon. Further, in claim 21, the claimed phrase "plurality of electrodes" is supported by the specification at page 8, lines 12-13, that discloses "The Card 1 has plated thereon a plurality of electroplated finger-like electrodes 4-5." The claimed phrase "adapted to contact fluid medium held in said movement area" finds support in the specification at page 4, lines 34-35, which discloses "The electrical connections contacting the movement area . . . ." Moreover, "The movement area is positioned so that it can be continuously subjected to a plurality of electrical fields in a

simultaneous or sequential manner." Page 4, lines 19-22. The claimed phrase "fluid medium held in said movement area, such that application of a voltage to the electrodes is effective to move charged particles within the movement area" finds support at page 4, lines 17-19, which discloses "there is provided a 'movement area' which includes a medium in which the charged particles such as charged molecules are to be moved." "

The claimed phrase in claim 22, "said movement area includes one or more channels on said support" is supported by the specification at page 10, lines 3-4, that discloses "It is important to note that the gel-filled channel 2 on the Card 1 does not have to contain cross-linked gels tethered to the walls." The term "Card" is used interchangeably throughout the specification to refer to the support, and in particular where "[a] substrate support such as a polymethylmethacrylate card approximately the size of a convention credit card is provided. The surface of the card itself is not electrically conducting nor is the card." Page 10, lines 17-21.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the now-pending claims are in a condition for examination. Accordingly, examination of the merits of the present application is respectfully requested. If additional fees are necessary to further prosecute the present application, Applicants authorize and request the Commissioner to charge any deficiency in fees herein, except issue fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-0531.

Respectfully submitted,

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